

of expected requirements. Veterans would be deprived of significant increases in medical care proposed by the President and the House budget resolution.

NIH—We would not be able to scale-up significantly Federal support for bio-preparedness research and development as proposed by the President. Anthrax vaccine research and development also would be slowed. It would forgo the nearly \$4 billion proposed for the National Institutes of Health which is consistent with Congress commitment to double funding for NIH over a set period of time.

Foreign Operations—Afghanistan reconstruction, including the famous Presidential ring road, would staff, increasing chances that unrest and killings would resume there as the Iraq matter comes to a head. It will severely cut the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and reduce by 30 percent funds for Plan Colombia.

Firefighting—interior has already spent \$1.5 billion on firefighting above what provided in FY02. This has come at the expense of other programs including Member projects. These bills would not be paid under a long-term CR.

Pay—All agencies would have to absorb Federal employee pay increases due in January. This will make it much more difficult for agencies to operate under a current rate and result in widespread layoffs and furloughs.

Pell Grants—A freeze in the Pell program will result in the accumulation of a significant shortfall. There will be a shortfall of over \$900 million, even when factoring in the \$1 billion supplemental appropriation provided to the program in fiscal year 2002.

DEA—We would be unable to hire new agents in response to FBI restructuring, which shifted 400 FBI drug agents to counter-terrorism. We have proposed to hire hundreds of new agents to fight the war on drugs. Not a single new agent would be hired under a long term CR leaving a significant gap in the federal government's drug enforcement capabilities.

GSA Construction—No new starts for any GSA line-item construction (\$630 million); would delay \$300 million for 11 courthouse construction projects, \$30 million for 6 border station construction projects, and \$300 million for 5 other construction projects, including funds for consolidating Food and Drug Administration facilities, a major Census building, and the US mission to the UN in New York. Projects would become more expensive due to inflation.

Campaign finance Reform—No funding for implementation of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act making it difficult for the Federal Elections Commission to implement the reforms signed into law by the President.

Federal Prisons—Insufficient activation funds to four Federal prisons that are scheduled to open in FY 2003, exacerbating the already overcrowded conditions in the Federal prison system.

Medicare claims—We would not be able to provide additional funding, as proposed by the President, to handle the increased Medicare claims volume in a timely manner. The President proposed a \$143 million increase to adequately process the growing number of claims. A long term CR would significantly slow down the claims process and unnecessarily inconvenience Senior Citizens who depend on Medicare.

Yucca Mountain—A CR at the FY 2002 enacted level of \$375M would significantly cut DOE's nuclear waste repository program by over \$200 million. This would cause real delays in the scheduled opening of the facility.

The Special Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

would be reduced \$114 million from current levels. This would result in less assistance being available for families who depend on this important program, especially in uncertain economic times.

The Food and Drug Administration would be reduced by \$138 million which would result in immediate furloughs and RIFs among newly hired employees responsible for enhanced availability of drugs and vaccines, and for increased food safety activities (primarily surveillance of imported food products, an identified vulnerability).

Social Security—The President also asked for a significant increase in funds to process and pay benefits to the millions of Social Security recipients.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the unanimous consent request of the majority leader?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 1) was read the third time and passed.

#### EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 3 p.m., with the time equally divided, and that Senators be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TALENT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I understand that the Senate is now in morning business. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to proceed in morning business for up to 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### STATE OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I want to spend some time today here on the floor of the Senate discussing the state of the American economy, the choices we face, how we got here and hopefully a vision for a better future for our middle-class working families.

What is the state of the Nation's economy? You don't need to look at the economic indicators, and the latest unemployment statistics, although they could tell you a story. You can just walk on the streets of Burlington or Waterloo or any city, or most towns large and small anywhere in America. For ordinary people paying taxes, it is tough for families right now. People are hurting.

In the longer view, we face a growing fiscal and economic crisis due to a lack of reasonable economic leadership of

this President. We have returned to deficit spending and are mortgaging the dreams of the middle class with millions to finance a tax cut aimed at the very few. That tax cut is squeezing out sensible, middle-class tax relief. It is squeezing out funding for health care and education. In the last year, the President, even in his budget reduced funding for the Leave No Child Behind Act, which just yesterday at the White House he was touting as being a great success. It is squeezing out money needed for that.

Worst of all, the President's fiscal mismanagement threatens Social Security and Medicare, and threatens having a real prescription drug benefit that is so needed. It threatens the need that we have to raise the floor on Medicare payments to States. My State of Iowa is right now rock bottom in the Nation in terms of beneficiary funding for Medicare.

Again, we are facing the retirement of the baby boomers who are coming along pretty soon; and, of course, the need to fight terrorism.

All of these are being squeezed by the misguided and misplaced economic policies of this administration. To date, the economic leadership of President Bush has been a miserable failure.

Let us start at the beginning.

On the day that George W. Bush was sworn as the 23rd President of the United States, the 10-year budget surplus was estimated at \$5.6 trillion \$3.1 trillion on budget—the largest in American history. That year's budget surplus was \$236 billion—again, the largest 1-year budget surplus in our Nation's history. The economy had created 22 million new jobs in the previous 8 years. Unemployment stood at 4.2 percent, a record.

The Nation's fiscal health in January of 2001 was such that facing a slowing economy, we could have passed a substantial stimulus package to boost the short-term economy without harming the Nation's long-term fiscal health. In kind of simple terms, it is if you or I get sick, and if we eat right and exercise, and we are in good health, we can even ride out the occasion of a bad flu, for example. But if you haven't taken care of yourself, if you haven't eaten right, and you are not in good health overall, a simple flu can put you in the hospital or on life support. That is the kind of smart economic plan we followed in the 1990s. Those fiscally responsible and pro-growth policies made it possible for us to deal with the short-term economic slowdown without harming our Nation's long-term fiscal health.

Unfortunately, President Bush chose a different but now an all-to-familiar economic course—a massive, fiscally irresponsible tax cut that does little to create jobs but does benefit largely the wealthiest among us. It has little or nothing to do with helping the middle class or with creating jobs.

In this day and age it seems that a Republican candidate running for